

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 FAA-00 IO-13 DOTE-00 SCCT-01 EUR-12 OMB-01

ACDA-07 /106 W

----- 072562

R 090815Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9098

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS, PFOR, IS, MO, UG

SUBJECT: GOM HITS HIJACKERS, CRITICIZES ISRAELI COMMANDO
OPERATION

1. OFFICIAL MININFO STATEMENT RELEASED JULY 1 GAVE GOM'S
VIEWS ON HIJACKING IN GENERAL, KAMPALA HIJACKING IN PARTICULAR.
FOLLOWING RELEASE AND SAFE RETURN ON JULY 1 TO CASABLANCA
OF THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR OF ROYAL AIR MAROC AND TWO MEMBERS OF HIS
FAMILY, WHO HAD ENPLANED IN ATHENS FOR PARIS, BENHIMA
ANATHEMATIZED AIR PIRACY BOTH BECAUSE IT THREATENED LIVES OF
INNOCENT PERSONS AND PREJUDICED WORLD OPINION AGAINST CAUSES
HIJACKERS PRETENDED TO DEFEND. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIJACKING
WERE "ONLY DESTROYING THE IMMENSE MORAL AND POLITICAL CREDIT"
THAT THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE HAD RECENTLY SUCCEEDED IN
GAINING, STATEMENT CONCLUDED.

2. FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL ISRAELI ENTEBBE OPERATION,
ANOTHER MININFO STATEMENT DATED JULY 6 ATTACKED ISRAELI
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ACTION AS "CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF CIVILIZATION OF OUR TIME,"

ONE WHICH "CONSTITUTES ANOTHER FORM OF PIRACY AND AN AGGRESSION AGAINST INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF UGANDA." ACT WAS COMMITTED BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS WHO SPECIALIZED IN SUCH TYPES OF "CRIMES", STATEMENT ADDED.

3. BOTH COMMENTS WERE BURIED IN BACK PAGES OF SEMI-OFFICIAL ORGANS, INDICATING GOM WISH TO DOWNPLAY THE EVENTS. OPPOSITION PRESS, BOTH ISTIQLALI AND USFP, WAS MUCH HARsher IN ITS DENUNCIATIONS OF THE ISRAELI RECOVERY OPERATIONS.

4. COMMENT: INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MOROCCANS AT VARIOUS LEVELS INDICATE A DECIDED LACK OF RAPPORT WITH UGANDA ON RESCUE OPERATION AND ADMIRATION FOR AT LEAST TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ISRAELI MISSION. AT SAME TIME, GOM CANNOT BREAK RANKS WITH OTHER ARABS AND AFRICANS AND THUS ISSUED WHAT AMOUNTED TO PRO-FORMA DENUNCIATION OF ISRAEL.
ANDERSON

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